



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of Environmental
Conservation**

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
Environmental Health Laboratory

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November 26, 2018

RE: Environmental Health Laboratory schedule week of Dec. 31, 2018 – Jan. 4, 2019

To our valued clients:

Alaska state offices will be **closed** on Tuesday, January 1st in observance of New Year's Day.

As a result, the sample acceptance schedule for **Dec. 31-Jan. 4** must be modified, as follows:

- Shellfish Growing Water (SGW) samples will be accepted on Wednesday Jan. 2, and by noon on Thursday Jan. 3.
- Paralytic Shellfish Toxin (PST) commercial samples will be accepted by noon Monday Dec. 31, Wednesday Jan. 2, Thursday Jan. 3, and by noon on Friday Jan. 4.
- Raw meat samples will be accepted Monday Dec. 31 and Wednesday Jan. 2-Friday Jan. 4, however meat samples are pooled for efficiency, and tested generally once a week.
- Slaughter sponge samples are good for 24 hours per USDA. Sponges will be accepted for testing Wednesday Jan. 2, and by noon Thursday Jan. 3, unless written extension provided to hold longer than 24 hours for testing.
- Manufactured and Cottage food samples will be accepted Monday Dec. 31 and Wednesday Jan. 2– Friday Jan. 4, however the testing will be conducted when samples are pooled for efficiency.
- Dairy testing is scheduled once a month, as usual, and is next scheduled for week of January 7th.
- Paralytic Shellfish Toxin (PST) recreational/research testing by HPLC/PCOX is scheduled once a month, and is next scheduled for week of January 7th.

Normal sample acceptance schedules resume on Monday, January 7, 2019.

Assistance is available with timing of samples collections, completion of submission forms, packaging, temperature requirements, shipping, and sample tracking. Sampling questions, planned sampling activities, and shipping notifications, can be made to DEC.EH-Lab-ShippingReceiving@alaska.gov or 907-375-8231.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patryce D. McKinney".

Patryce D. McKinney, MBA
Chief, Environmental Health Laboratory